

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Cancelled).

18. (previously presented) A method of treating, filtering and cleaning a working medium comprising the steps of providing at least one filter in a filter housing which is adjoined by a discharging arrangement for discharging a filter cake, compacting filtered-out particles in stages in the discharging arrangement to form the filter cake, discharging the compacted filter cake once a predetermined thickness has been reached, back-flushing the at least one filter at certain time intervals, with air or some other pressure medium being introduced into an interior of the at least one filter, and externally subjecting the at least one filter to the action of the working medium or some other flushing medium during the back-flushing operation.

19. (currently amended) A method of ~~treating, filtering and cleaning a working medium, comprising the steps of providing at least one filter in a filter housing which is adjoined by a discharging arrangement for discharging a filter cake, compacting filtered-out particles in stages in the discharging~~

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~~arrangement to form the filter cake, discharging the compacted filter cake once a predetermined thickness has been reached, according to claim 18, further comprising determining a pressure of a pressing piston is determined, and increasing the pressure of the pressing piston during a final pressing stage.~~

20. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising using a back-flushing pulse for discharging the filter cake.

21. (previously presented) The method as claimed in one of claim 18, further comprising subjecting the at least one filter to the action of the flushing medium via flushing nozzles which are oriented in the direction of the at least one filter.

22. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising determining the thickness of the cake via a distance measurement when a certain thickness of a briquette of a pressing piston has been reached.

23. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising causing the flushing medium to move, in a vortex, just before and/or during transfer between the filter

housing and the discharging arrangement.

24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising forcing the out of the filter cake back into a feed hopper.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising subjecting the filter housing to pressure for the purpose of discharging the filter cake.

26. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising extracting the filter cake from the discharging arrangement by suction.

27. (withdrawn) An apparatus for treating, filtering, and cleaning a working medium comprising at least one filter, in a filter housing adjoining a discharge arrangement for discharging a filter cake once a predetermined thickness has been reached, said at least one filter being periodically back-flushed, from the filter housing, the hopper opens out downwards into an antechamber of the discharging arrangement, which is adjoined by a pressing chamber, the antechamber and the pressing chamber being assigned a pressing piston.

28. (withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the pressing chamber is closed by a slide.

29. (withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the pressing piston is assigned at least one sensor for determining the position of the pressing piston.

30. (withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in one of claim 27, wherein the pressing piston is connected to a piston rod via a threaded bolt, which is inserted into the pressing piston from an end side.

31. (withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein at least a lateral surface of the pressing piston consists, at least in part, of plastic.

32. (withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein a wall of the hopper has at least one aperture for the through-passage of a liquid into the hopper.

33. (withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the hopper has at least one aperture for the through-passage of

a liquid into the hopper.

34. (withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein the wall maintains a distance, at least in part, from a side wall of the filter housing.

35. (withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein a wall of the hopper forms at least one aperture, and the working medium which flows into the filter housing and is to be cleaned being able to flow against the aperture-forming wall.

36. (withdrawn) A discharging arrangement for discharging a filter cake, comprising a pressing chamber arranged downstream of an antechamber for accommodating filtered-out particles, the passing chamber and the antechamber being assigned a pressing piston and the course of the pressing piston being monitored by sensors and the pressing chamber being closed by a slide.